

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-02
INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-07 SS-15
ACDA-12 PA-02 NRC-07 CEQ-01 XMB-04 /172 W
-----072201 111751Z /45

R 111645Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6497
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09063

PARIS FOR USOECD; ALSO FOR USEC

PASS TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, PINTS, BE
SUBJECT; PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS' REMARKS ON ENERGY
POLICY ON HIS RETURN FROM THE US

REF: BRUSSELS 8876

1. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS ON HIS RETURN FROM A PRIVATE
TRIP TO THE US TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS ORGANIZED BY THE
COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND BY ARDEN HOUSE, DELIVERED
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HIMSELF OF THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON GLOBAL AND ESPECIALLY
US ENERGY POLICY TO THE BRUSSELS DAILY "LIBRE BELGIQUE" ON
MAY 9. AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE PM'S RE-
MARKS FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE...I AM CONVINCED TODAY THAT THE ENERGY
PROBLEM AND ALL THAT SURROUNDS AND CONDITIONS IT IS THE

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF THE MOMENT. IT DETERMINES, IN EFFECT, THE WHOLE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE BEGINNING TO PERCEIVE THE END OF THE OIL ERA, AND ACCORDING TO THE EXPERTS, WE WILL CONSUME MORE HYDROCARBONS IN 1985 THAN WE WILL PRODUCE. THUS A PROBLEM OF SUPPLY IS GOING TO BECOME QUICKLY APPARENT, ONE WHICH WILL NOT BE PERMANENTLY RESOLVED BEFORE THE YEAR 2000. NOT UNTIL ABOUT THE YEAR 2015--IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL--WILL NUCLEAR FUSION (FOR PEACEFUL MEANS) BECOME COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE, OR WILL WE HAVE OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY.

UNTIL THEN, WE WILL BE LIVING THROUGH A REAL CHALLENGE, WITH THE CRITICAL POINT BEGINNING IN 1985. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO RESOLVE EUROPE'S PROBLEM OF ENERGY SUPPLY. ALREADY TODAY THE US IMPORTS 50 PERCENT OF ITS HYDROCARBON CONSUMPTION NEEDS. IN 1977, THESE IMPORTS REACHED 8.6 MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL PER DAY. IF THIS TREND CONTINUES, THAT IS, IF US OIL POLICY DOES NOT CHANGE, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO PRICES ON THE DOMESTIC AMERICAN MARKET, THEY WILL IMPORT 11.5 MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE PER DAY IN 1985. THIS VOLUME WOULD ENDANGER THE SUPPLY OF INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY MEMBER COUNTRIES WHO HAVE DECIDED TO LIMIT THEIR CRUDE OIL IMPORTS IN 1985 TO 26 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY.

THIS SITUATION CONSTITUTES A REAL THREAT FOR EUROPE, BE-
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CAUSE, AS THE US DIPS MORE DEEPLY INTO WORLD OIL RESERVES, THE BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR EUROPE AND OTHER COUNTRIES WILL DECREASE AND, ESPECIALLY, PRICE WILL INCREASE. I DO NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN THE QUARREL THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES ON THE PRICE LEVEL OF OIL IN THE US, BUT WHEN THE WORLD PRICE OF OIL IS AT STAKE, WE ARE OBLIGED TO REACT...

I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE OUR ENERGY REQUIREMENTS. BY RETURNING TO ALL THE TECHNIQUES AND ALL THE AVAILABLE RESOURCES: COAL, GAS, OIL, NUCLEAR POWER, SOFT ENERGIES, BUT ALSO BY DEALING WITH THE MONETARY ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM. IN EFFECT, THE AMERICANS PAY FOR THEIR OIL IMPORTS NOT BY BORROWING FROM THE BANKING WORLD, BUT QUITE SIMPLY BY RESORTING TO THE PRINTING PRESS AND PUTTING INTO CIRCULATION ENORMOUS MASSES OF NEW, NON-CONVERTIBLE GREENBACKS ON THE DOMESTIC AMERICAN MARKET. THIS IS THEIR WAY OF CONTENDING WITH THE PRESENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE OIL PRICE INCREASE IMPOSED BY THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THEY ARE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR ON THE FOREIGN MARKETS, SINCE THEIR EXPORTS REPRESENT LESS THAN 10

PERCENT OF THEIR GNP. THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE OBLIGED TO SUPPORT A DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE WHICH WEIGHS HEAVILY ON THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE US IMAGE IN THE EYES OF EUROPEAN LEADERS IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY BAD AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US ARE DETERIORATING. END QUOTE.

3. LATER IN HIS INTERVIEW, THE PM HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT US/EUROPEAN DIFFERENCES IN NUCLEAR POLICY: BEGIN QUOTE. I SIMPLY WANTED TO CONVINCE MY LISTENERS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE PROBLEMS FOR EUROPE, AT A MOMENT

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R 111645Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6498
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 09063

CORRECTED COPY - 1ST LINE OMITTED ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION

PARIS FOR USOECD; ALSO FOR USEC
PASS TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE

WHEN THE AMERICANS ENVISAGE REFUSING DELIVERIES OF EN-
RICHED URANIUM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NON-PROLIFERA-
TION LAW. I DEMONSTRATED THAT NOT ONLY DID WE HAVE NEED

OF OIL, BUT ALSO OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, INCLUDING FAST BREEDERS, TO RESPOND TO THE ENERGY CHALLENGE, AND TO GUARANTEE OUR SUPPLY INDEPENDENCE. OF COURSE, WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT ALL POSSIBLE AND CONCEIVABLE CONTROLS, BUT I REALLY SEE NO OTHER SOLUTIONS FOR RESOLVING OUR ENERGY PROBLEM....END QUOTE. CHAMBERS
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